

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data processing apparatus, comprising:

a) input means for inputting material data;

b) encoding means for encoding the material data

5 to form contents data;

c) forming means for forming intellectual property information on intellectual property rights in technological aspects necessary for forming the contents data; and

10 d) addition means for adding to the contents data the intellectual property information formed by said forming means.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
15 said encoding means forms MPEG-4 encoded data.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said addition means embeds the intellectual property information in IPMP data.  
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4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said encoding means performs encryption on the contents.

25 5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said encoding means encrypts the contents by using key information formed according to the intellectual

property information.

6. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein  
said encoding means performs encryption on the basis of  
5 a public-key crypto system.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the  
intellectual property information comprises information  
on a patent or a utility model.  
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8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the  
intellectual property information comprises information  
on a patent or a utility model used to decode the  
contents data.  
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9. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the  
information on a patent or a utility model includes  
information on a registration country and a patent  
number or a utility model registration number.  
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10. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
the material information includes image data.

11. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
25 the material information includes audio data.

12. A data processing apparatus, comprising:

a) input means for inputting material data;

b) encoding means for encoding the material data  
to form contents data;

c) forming means for forming intellectual property  
5 information on intellectual property rights in  
technological aspects necessary for decoding the  
contents data; and

d) addition means for adding to the contents data  
the intellectual property information formed by said  
10 forming means.

13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
the intellectual property information comprises  
information on a patent or a utility model.  
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14. A data processing apparatus, comprising:

a) input means for inputting encoded contents data  
and intellectual property information on intellectual  
property rights in technological aspects necessary for  
20 forming the contents data;

b) discrimination means for discriminating on the  
basis of the intellectual property information whether  
use of the intellectual property rights are authorized;

c) decoding means for decoding the contents data;  
25 and

d) control means for controlling said decoding  
means according to the result of the discrimination

made by said discrimination means.

15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein  
the contents data comprises data encoded in accordance  
5 with the MPEG-4 coding system.

16. An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein  
the intellectual property information is contained in  
IPMP data.  
10

17. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein  
the content data input by said encoding means is  
encrypted.

18. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein  
the content data input by said encoding means is  
encrypted according to the intellectual property  
information.  
15

19. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein  
the intellectual property information comprises  
information on a patent or a utility model.  
20

20. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein  
the information on a patent or a utility model  
includes information on a registration country and a  
patent number or a utility model registration number.  
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21. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the contents data includes image data, said apparatus further comprising display means for displaying a content decoded by said decoding means.

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22. A data processing apparatus, comprising:

a) input means for inputting encoded contents data and intellectual property information on intellectual property rights in technological aspects necessary for decoding the contents data;

b) discrimination means for discriminating on the basis of the intellectual property information whether use of the intellectual property rights are authorized;

c) decoding means for decoding the contents data; and

d) control means for controlling said decoding means according to the result of the discrimination made by said discrimination means.

23. An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the intellectual property information comprises information on a patent or a utility model.

24. A data processing method comprising:

a) an input step of inputting material data;

b) an encoding step of encoding the material data to form contents data;

c) a forming step of forming intellectual property information on intellectual property rights in technological aspects necessary for forming the contents data; and

5           d) an addition step of adding to the contents data the intellectual property information formed in said forming step.

25. A data processing method comprising:

10           a) an input step of inputting material data;

          b) an encoding step of encoding the material data to form contents data;

          c) a forming step of forming intellectual property information on intellectual property rights in  
15 technological aspects necessary for decoding the contents data; and

          d) an addition step of adding to the contents data the intellectual property information formed in said forming step.

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26. A data processing method comprising:

          a) an input step of inputting encoded contents data and intellectual property information on  
intellectual property rights in technological aspects  
25 necessary for forming the contents data;

          b) a discrimination step of discriminating on the basis of the intellectual property information whether

use of the intellectual property rights are authorized;

c) a decoding step of decoding the contents data;

and

d) a control step of controlling said decoding

5 step according to the result of the discrimination made  
in said discrimination step.

27. A data processing method comprising:

10 a) an input step of inputting encoded contents  
data and intellectual property information on  
intellectual property rights in technological aspects  
necessary for decoding the contents data;

15 b) a discrimination step of discriminating on the  
basis of the intellectual property information whether  
use of the intellectual property rights are authorized;

c) a decoding step of decoding the contents data;  
and

20 d) a control step of controlling said decoding  
step according to the result of the discrimination made  
in said discrimination step.

28. A computer-readable storage medium storing  
program codes comprising: data processing program  
codes, said data processing

25 a) a code for an input step of inputting material  
data;

b) a code for an encoding step of encoding the

material data to form contents data;

c) a code for a forming step of forming  
intellectual property information on intellectual  
property rights in technological aspects necessary for  
5 forming the contents data; and

d) a code for an addition step of adding to the  
contents data the intellectual property information  
formed in said forming step.

10 29. A computer-readable storage medium storing  
program codes comprising: data processing program  
codes, said data processing

a) a code for an input step of inputting material  
data;

15 b) a code for an encoding step of encoding the  
material data to form contents data;

c) a code for a forming step of forming  
intellectual property information on intellectual  
property rights in technological aspects necessary for  
20 decoding the contents data; and

d) a code for an addition step of adding to the  
contents data the intellectual property information  
formed in said forming step.

25 30. A computer-readable storage medium storing  
codes comprising: data processing program codes, said  
data processing



a) a code for an input step of inputting encoded contents data and intellectual property information on intellectual property rights in technological aspects necessary for forming the contents data;

5        b) a code for a discrimination step of discriminating on the basis of the intellectual property information whether use of the intellectual property rights are authorized;

10       c) a code for a decoding step of decoding the contents data; and

d) a code for a control step of controlling said decoding step according to the result of the discrimination made in said discrimination step.

15       31. A computer-readable storage medium storing program codes comprising: data processing program codes, said data processing

20       a) a code for an input step of inputting encoded contents data, and intellectual property information on intellectual property rights in technological aspects necessary for decoding the contents data;

25       b) a code for discrimination step of discriminating on the basis of the intellectual property information whether use of the intellectual property rights are authorized;

c) a code for a decoding step of decoding the contents data; and

d) a code for a control step of controlling said decoding step according to the result of the discrimination made in said discrimination step.